

# More Than 250 Years of Experience Will Depart FMPC When NLO Leaves

## Spenceley Proud Of Contributions Made By NLO, Inc.

Bob Spenceley came to the FMPC when "it was a sea of mud and one partially completed building."

Early next year, he will retire as manager of a unique, complex and controversial facility that has made enormous contributions to the national defense, and one of which he is very proud.

He watched the FMPC being built, participated in the design of some of it, moved up rapidly when it was booming, hung on for 17 years when there was no money for improvements or promotions and has been manager since March, 1981. Only one NLO employee, security director Larry Devir, has more seniority.



**LEAVING WITH NLO** - Eight top management officials will leave with NLO when its operating contract with DOE is completed. They represent more than 258 years of experience at FMPC. **Left to right seated** are Weldon Adams, assistant manager, and R. M. Spenceley, manager. **Standing, left to right** are Dick Leist, Technical Group; Jack Farr, Mechanical; Charles Handel, Accounting; Bill Grannen, attorney; George Smith, Personnel and Eli Nutter, Production. They could be leaving as early as January 1.  
(Photo By Jim Denney)

in Providence, Rhode Island, where he was awarded a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1949.

Married to the former Luanne Ewbank, daughter of the legendary football coach, Weeb Ewbank, he has two sons, Mike and Tom, and a daughter, Jane.

But for two years, when he was a draftsman and tool designer for Cincinnati Tool Company, his entire working life has been spent at FMPC. He joined the Technical Division of NLO in September of 1951.

"The only building on site when I arrived was a partially-completed Pilot Plant," says Spenceley. Production was his first love, so he transferred to Production as area foreman two years later.

He helped design Plant 7 and served as general foreman and later plant superintendent of Plants 4 and 7. Transferred to Plant 6 in 1959, he gradually assumed responsibility for the entire metals area and remained there for 17 years, during "the lean years."

Spenceley was a successful and innovative plant manager in several areas and always brought about a tremendous increase in production capacity.

"That may have been my biggest achievement. That was fun, and I enjoyed it very much," Spenceley says.

"The first 33 years were enjoyable and rewarding. My biggest disappointment has been the last year, but I firmly believe the decisions we were operating under were the proper decisions, given the mission of the plant."

"You'll never work for a more honest, straight-shooter than Bob Spenceley," his friends will tell you.

He refuses to alibi.

"When I was coming up in the plant, it was always said, 'If it happens in your area, it's your responsibility,' so I accept responsibility for the events of the past year."

"But the reason we have been roundly criticized is that we have not been permitted to tell our side of the story."

Spenceley believes the FMPC has been successful this year. "Our stack losses are one-tenth of last year. We now have authorization to rectify many equipment shortcomings that we had to live with for so many years. We have completed a comprehensive report on the off-site well contamination problem, which I believe is the biggest source of concern. We have a \$350 million modernization program underway, a five-year plan to improve health and safety. So a lot of groundwork has been laid."

"We've been considerably less successful in turning around the media, the public and the union, because of all the restrictions we had."

Spenceley's retirement plans are in place. He'll spend time in both Oxford and Traverse City, Michigan, where he has a lakeside home. He's an avid fisherman, a do-it-yourself woodworker, and gardener. Football is also a long-time favorite.

Bob Spenceley is prepared to enjoy himself again.



**R. M. SPENCELEY**

A native of Oxford, Ohio, he grew up the son of college professors. His early education was in McGuffey Grade and High School, named for the author of McGuffey's Reader, and a part of Miami University.

World War II was raging in 1942 when Spenceley enlisted in the Army Air Corps at age 18. Three years later, he came home a first lieutenant, having flown 30 combat missions as a navigator with the Eighth Air Force.

He attended Miami University briefly before transferring to Brown University